MARVEL

SOULE
MARKS
LOUGHRIDGE

005

THE WOLVERINE IS DEAD.

HIS LEGACY REMAINS.

LOGAN MET HIS END WHILE DESTROYING A REVAMPED VERSION OF THE WEAPON X PROJECT LOCATED IN A FACILITY KNOWN AS PARADISE.

LOGAN COULD NOT ESCAPE, BUT OTHERS DID--FIVE TEST SUBJECTS, ALL GRANTED STRANGE NEW POWERS. NONE WERE EVER INTENDED TO SURVIVE OUTSIDE THE PROGRAM, AND ALL HAVE BEEN INFUSED WITH A TICKING CLOCK IN THEIR DNA THAT WILL KILL THEM UNLESS IT CAN BE DEACTIVATED.

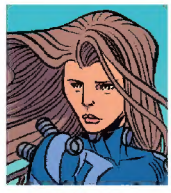
THESE LOST WEAPONS KIDNAPPED A GROUP OF FIVE OF WOLVERINE'S DEADLIEST ASSOCIATES IN THE HOPE THAT THEIR HEALING FACTORS MIGHT HOLD THE ANSWER TO SAVING THE TEST SUBJECTS' LIVES. THE REFUGEES FROM PARADISE HOLD SIGNIFICANT LEVERAGE OVER THE FIVE KILLERS--SECRET "CONTROL WORDS" THAT CAN MANIPULATE, SEDATE OR EVEN KILL EACH OF THEM.

HAVING NOW TEAMED UP WITH ANOTHER PARADISE SURVIVOR, FANTOMELLE, AND HER PSYCHICALLY LINKED FOX CULPEPPER, THE TWO TEAMS PLAN TO STORM MR. SINISTER'S FINLANDIAN LAIR IN HOPES TO RETRIEVE THE POTENTIAL KEY TO THEIR SALVATION--THE REMAINS OF WOLVERINE! BUT UNBEKNOWNST TO OUR HEROES, MR. SINISTER HAS BEEN PATIENTLY WAITING FOR THEIR ARRIVAL...

PARADISE

SHOGUN

NEURO

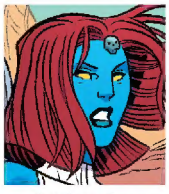

ENDO

SKEL

JUNK

FANTOMELLE

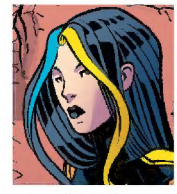
THE WOLVERINES


MYSTIQUE

SABRETOOTH

LADY DEATHSTRIKE

DAKEN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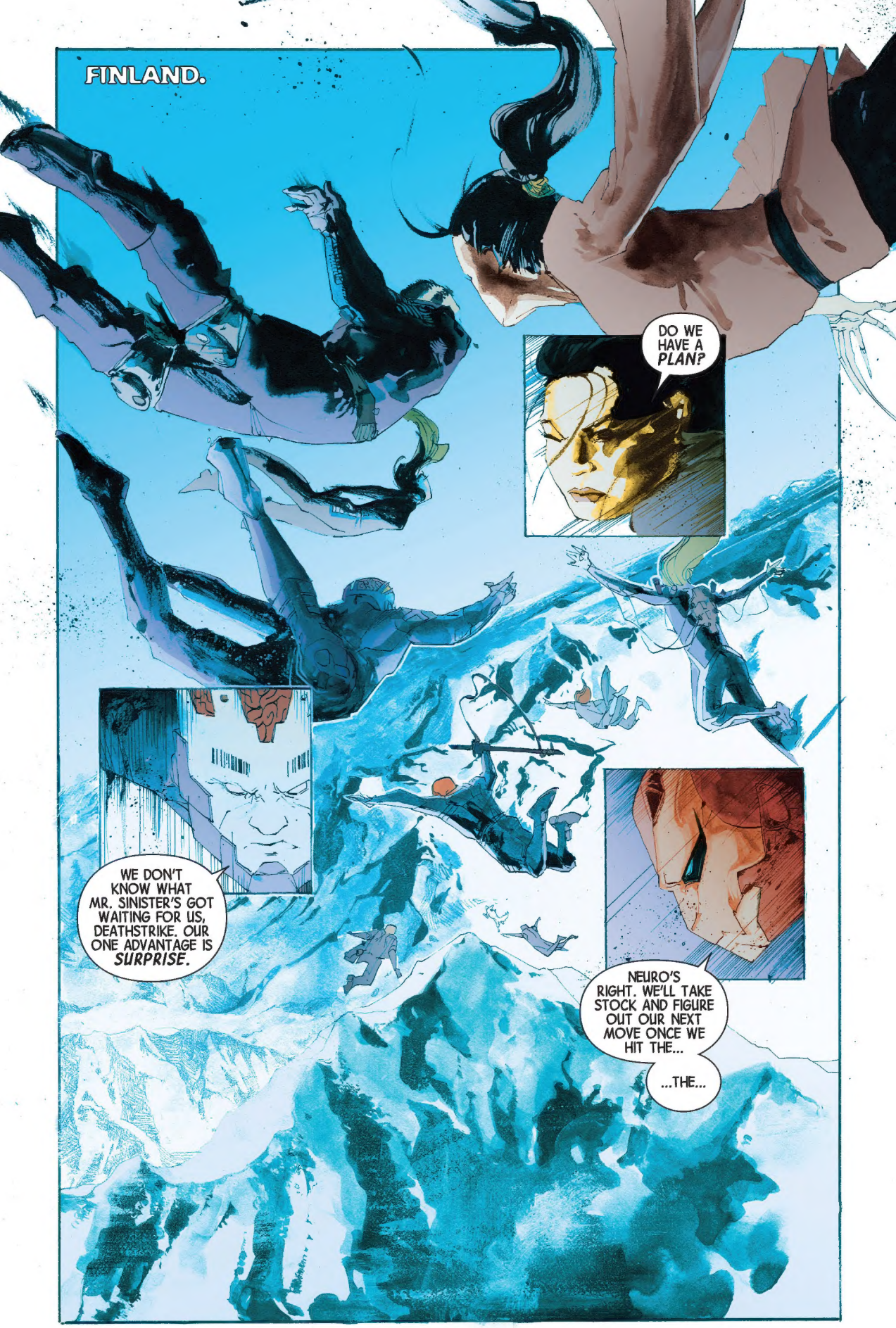
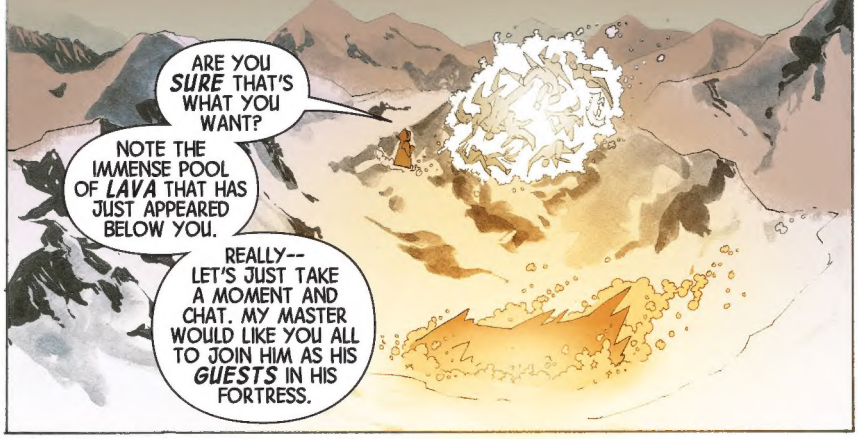
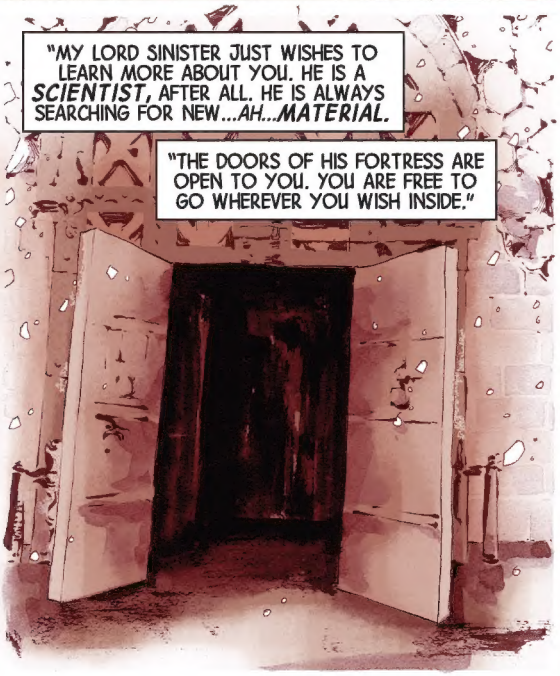

FINLAND.
DO WE HAVE A *PLAN?*
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT MR. SINISTER'S GOT WAITING FOR US, DEATHSTRIKE. OUR ONE ADVANTAGE IS *SURPRISE.*
NEURO'S RIGHT. WE'LL TAKE STOCK AND FIGURE OUT OUR NEXT MOVE ONCE WE HIT THE...
...THE...

...WHY HAVE WE STOPPED FALLING?
HELLO! WELCOME, ALL OF YOU...
...MY NAME IS STARKY GRIPES.
I SERVE MR. SINISTER, WHICH YOU HAVE PROBABLY GUESSED BY THIS POINT. HE SENT ME TO GREET YOU, AND TO EXPLAIN A FEW THINGS.
FIRST, ALLOW ME TO REVEAL...
...MY MASTER'S HOME. THE FORTRESS SINISTER.
WE KNOW. THAT IS WHY WE ARE HERE. LET US DOWN, WHATEVER YOU ARE, OR YOU WILL REGRET IT.
DOWN, MYSTIQUE?


ARE YOU SURE THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT?
NOTE THE IMMENSE POOL OF LAVA THAT HAS JUST APPEARED BELOW YOU.
REALLY-- LET'S JUST TAKE A MOMENT AND CHAT. MY MASTER WOULD LIKE YOU ALL TO JOIN HIM AS HIS GUESTS IN HIS FORTRESS.

SOME OF YOU, HE ALREADY KNOWS, OF COURSE.
HELLO THERE, YURIKO. A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU.
SINISTER DOES NOT KNOW ME. NO ONE KNOWS ME. I WILL TEAR YOU AND YOUR MASTER APART.
DELIGHTFUL.

BUT OF COURSE, SOME OF YOU HE DOES NOT YET KNOW. FANTOMELLE, ISN'T IT? AND CULPEPPER?
THIS IS BAD, 'ELLE. NO SCORE IS WORTH THIS.
WE CAN STILL MAKE IT WORK, PEP. DON'T BE SCARED. WE'RE GOING AFTER THE WOLVERINE.
ACCEPTABLE RISK, BUDDY.
THIS IS JUST A JOB, ER, MR. GRIPES. WE'RE HAPPY TO BEG OFF, IF YOU'LL JUST LET US GO.
WHY, THAT'S THE IDEA!


"MY LORD SINISTER JUST WISHES TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOU. HE IS A SCIENTIST, AFTER ALL. HE IS ALWAYS SEARCHING FOR NEW...AH...MATERIAL.
"THE DOORS OF HIS FORTRESS ARE OPEN TO YOU. YOU ARE FREE TO GO WHEREVER YOU WISH INSIDE."

AND IF WE SAY NO?
WELL, THAT'S WHAT THE LAVA'S FOR, X-23.

OFF YOU GO THEN.
NO...NO! CAN'T YOU SEE? THIS IS CRAZY! WE CAN'T!
I WON'T!
ENDO! STOP, GIRL! HE WON'T LET YOU--
TSK TSK.
KLIK
NOOOO!
ENDO! HOLY--

WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER?
NO ONE LEAVES, I'M AFRAID. THE ONLY WAY OUT IS IN.
HHN.
SHHK
NOT FOR YOU.
VERY NICE.
EXCUSE ME, FOLKS.

NAME'S PARKY GRIPES. DON'T BE SURPRISED--THE MASTER'S REALLY QUITE FOND OF CLONES.
BARKY GRIPES HERE. SORT OF A RECURRING MOTIF, IF YOU WILL.
HARKY GRIPES. DO HEAD ON IN, WON'T YOU?
ZARKY. THINK I DID RATHER WELL WITH THAT ONE.
GLARKY. DREW THE SHORT STICK. AND STARKY WAS MY BEST FRIEND, YOU MONSTERS.
COME ON.
WE'RE JUST GOING TO GO IN? WHEN SINISTER KNOWS WE'RE COMING?
THIS IS SUICIDE, SHOGUN.
NO. SINISTER HAS WOLVERINE'S BODY. WE NEED IT.
THIS IS PROGRESS.
DOES IT LOOK LIKE WE GOT A CHOICE, KID? DON'T WORRY. I'LL PROTECT YOU.
NNF. NO THANKS, CREED. I'M JUST HOPING THEY GET YOU FIRST.
REAL NICE, LAURA.

I AM MR. SINISTER. YOUR GOAL HERE IS TO REMAIN INTERESTING ENOUGH FOR ME TO KEEP YOU ALIVE.
MANY OF MY EXPERIMENTS NEED FIELD TESTS AGAINST UNPREDICTABLE OPPONENTS. DEFEAT THEM, AND PERHAPS I WILL LET YOU LIVE WHILE I STUDY YOUR CAPABILITIES.
OR, YOU CAN ALL DIE IN ENTERTAINING WAYS, AFTER WHICH I'LL USE YOUR CORPSES TO CREATE WONDERFUL NEW THINGS.
EITHER WAY, A PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE OUTCOME.

SO GET TO IT.

ALL RIGHT, WE'RE HERE BECAUSE OF YOU, SHOGUN. WHAT N--
HUH?

WHAT THE--?
SINISTER'S TRYIN' TO SEPARATE US!
IT...NNGH... SEEMS TO BE WORKING!
KRAKSH

WHOA. WHOA. THAT WAS...THAT WAS... I DO NOT LIKE THIS AT ALL.

I TOLD YOU!
CAN WE PLEASE LEAVE NOW, 'ELLE?
NO WAY, PEP. DID YOU SEE SINISTER?
THAT SPEECH WAS THE MOST SUPER-VILLAIN THING I'VE EVER SEEN IN MY LIFE.
YOU'VE BEEN ALIVE FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS.
THE POINT STANDS. IMAGINE WHAT A GUY LIKE THAT MIGHT HAVE LYING AROUND... AND HOW MUCH WE COULD SELL IT FOR. DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE?

...
YES. YES I DO.

IT'S OCCURRING TO ME THAT WE MAY BE VERY MUCH OUT OF OUR LEAGUE.
DON'T SEEM FAIR. WE JUST SHOW UP AND THIS SINISTER TRIES TO KILL US?
HE KNOWS WE'RE TRYING TO STEAL THE WOLVERINE STATUE.
DIDN'T HE STEAL IT FIRST?
I THINK THE NUANCE IS LOST ON HIM. DON'T WORRY. I'LL GET US THROUGH THIS, SKEL.
WHY AM I EVEN HERE, SHOGUN? I DON'T FIGHT. I THINK.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KNEW WHERE TO FIND SINISTER'S FORTRESS, NEURO. WE'RE HERE BECAUSE OF YOU. ENDO PROBABLY DIED BECAUSE OF YOU.
LET ME REMIND YOU. THIS IS NOT AN ADVENTURE. THIS IS NOT A COMICAL MISHAP.
UNLESS WE SOMEHOW GET WOLVERINE'S CORPSE AWAY FROM SINISTER AND FIND OUR WAY OUT OF HERE, WE'LL ALL BE DEAD BY THIS TIME NEXT YEAR.
SO USE THAT BRAIN OF YOURS AND THINK US A WAY--
CRRRRK
--OUT.
THAT AIN'T GOOD. THAT IS NO DAMN GOOD.

YOU ARE A FOOL, CREED. WE SHOULD HAVE KILLED SHOGUN AND HIS PEOPLE WHEN WE HAD THE CHANCE!
LISTEN, DEATHSTRIKE--THIS IS A BIG DAMN MESS, BUT I'M JUST TRYING NOT TO KILL PEOPLE SO MUCH THESE DAYS.
YOU EXPECT US TO BELIEVE THAT? I HAVE KNOWN YOU TO MURDER PEOPLE FOR SNEEZING.
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO EXPLAIN THIS, BUT NO ONE WILL LISTEN. SOMETHING CHANGED FOR ME IN GENOSHA A LITTLE WHILE BACK. I'M NOT--
HEY...
...REMEMBER MR. SINISTER? HE SAID WE'D STAY ALIVE ONLY AS LONG AS WE STAYED INTERESTING.
YOUR STUPID ARGUMENT COULD NOT BE MORE BORING. GOOD, BAD, WHO CARES? LET'S--
UH, GUYS?
GUYS?
LOOK.
HEY.
YOU FOLKS STUCK HERE, TOO?

GRAAAAH!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?
YOU HAVE ANY IDEA, OGUN?
NO. SINISTER'S... ODD. COULD BE ANYTHING, OR ANY COMBINATION OF THINGS.
I HAVE IT IN MY FILES-- IT'S SOMETHING CALLED FIN FANG FOOM.
GUESS AGAIN, MORTALS! FOR I AM NOT FIN FANG FOOM, BUT--
HEY, CAN YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH? WE TALKED ABOUT THIS.
KRRACK
FIN FANG BOOM!

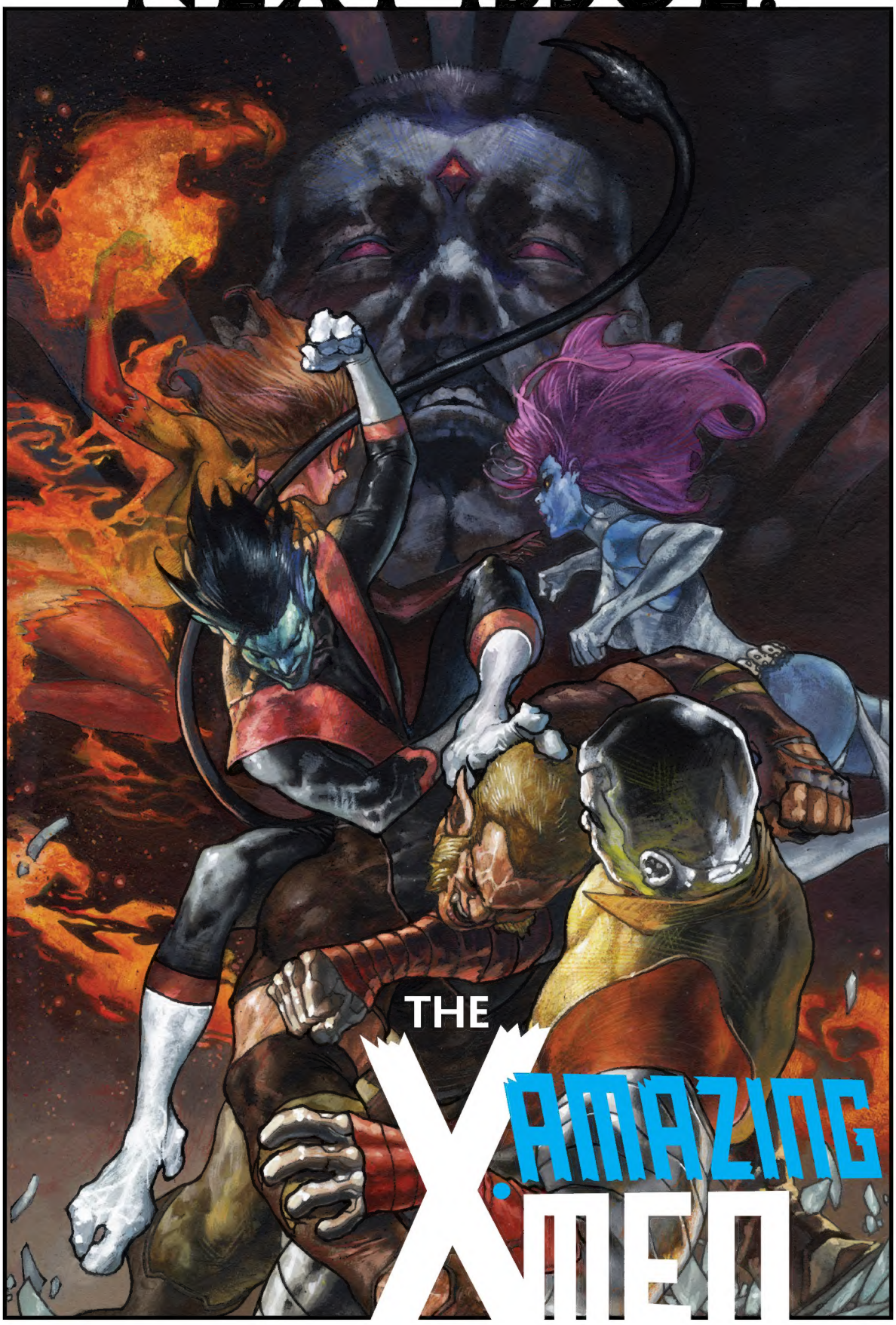
I'VE GOT SOME FRIENDS THIS WAY. WELL, MAYBE NOT FRIENDS, EXACTLY-- BUT...YOU'LL SEE.
MAYBE WE CAN FIND A WAY OUT.
I'VE HEARD OF YOU, HAVEN'T I? YOU'RE NOT THE REGULAR SPIDER-MAN.
NO. I'M... IT'S COMPLICATED. THEY CALL ME THE SCARLET SPIDER. I'M SORT OF A CLONE, BUT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GO MY OWN WAY.
THE OTHERS ARE IN HERE.
ANYWAY, MY REAL NAME...
...IS BEN REILLY.
WHATEVER, MAN. I'M BEN REILLY.
WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS, GUYS, YOU'RE CLONES. I'M BEN.
YOU WISH.
I'M SPIDER-MAN. I THINK.

HELLO THERE, VICTOR CREED. GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE GETTING ON. PARKY GRIPES HERE, IN CASE YOU'RE WONDERING.
IT CAN GET CONFUSING, I KNOW.
AH, GREAT.
MY MASTER IS VERY PROUD OF THIS PARTICULAR EXPERIMENT--ALL THESE SCARLET SPIDER CLONES. HE SENT ME TO MAKE QUITE CERTAIN THAT ALL OF YOU GET THE JO--
SLKK
NNGHH... GUESS I'M DONE FOR.
BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW... I'M NOT ACTUALLY PARKY GRIPES.
I'M MARKY.
HHN.
SINISTER TOOK ME PRISONER. HE'S BEEN MAKING CLONES OF ME. I NEED YOUR HEL--
SLKK!
SHE KILLED MARKY!
LOVED THAT GUY!
THEY'RE MONSTERS.
YOU...YOU DON'T THINK HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH?
HERE'S THE TRUTH: I HATE THIS PLACE.
NEED TO TEACH THEM A LESSON.
YOU DON'T KILL THE ORIGINAL. KILL THE ORIGINAL...
...AND YOU PAY THE PRICE.
YOU KNOW WHAT, LAURA?
SO DO I.

WHAT NOW, BOSS?
HIT IT, RIGHT IN THE GUT, AND DON'T STOP HITTING IT UNTIL I TELL YOU.
I'VE GOT A PLAN.
CAN DO. NEED TO PUNCH SOMETHING ANYWAY. WAS STARTING TO GET THE SHAKES.
SSSSSHHH
NNGH!
WHOOOA THERE, MY FRIEND!
THWAM
OKAY--YOU GET ONE CHANCE TO BACK OFF.
ONE.
THOU DAREST, MORTAL? I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING HOW YOU TASTE!
NO! STOP!
SLSH
THAT IS JUST--GROSS.
OH, NO. THIS IS NOT GOO--
THWUD
SHK

LOOK AT THIS THING. IT'S INCREDIBLE.
WHATEVER YOU SAY, NEURO. WE NEED TO KEEP MOVING.
NO, LISTEN TO ME. IF MR. SINISTER CAN CREATE SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
...THEN HE CAN ALMOST CERTAINLY CURE US. WE DON'T HAVE TO DIE.
WE'RE GOING ABOUT THIS BACKWARDS. WE DON'T NEED THE WOLVERINE STATUE AT ALL.
SINISTER! WE'D LIKE TO MAKE A DEAL! WE HAVE SOMETHING TO OFFER YOU!
WE CAN GIVE YOU COMPLETE CONTROL OVER THE OTHERS--SABRETOOTH AND THE REST.
NEURO, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING? WE CAN'T MAKE A DEAL WITH THIS GUY. HE'S A MONSTER.
LAST TIME I CHECKED, SHOGUN, SO ARE WE.
INTERESTING.

ALL OF OUR GUESTS SEEM APPROPRIATELY OCCUPIED, FOR THE MOMENT.
LET US PROCEED.
THERE IS THE GIRL AND HER DOG. WE LOST TRACK OF THEM.
THEY ARE A GIRL AND A DOG. I AM NOT CONCERNED.
DOG? DOG? I COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE MORE OF A FOX.
YES, CULPEPPER. YOU'RE A VERY LOVELY FOX.
WELL, THERE IT IS. THE REMAINS OF WOLVERINE. POSSIBLY THE MOST VALUABLE ARTIFACT IN THE ENTIRE WORLD--AT LEAST TO SHOGUN, MYSTIQUE AND THE REST.
NOW, TO DEFEAT THE MAD SCIENTIST, FIND SOME WAY TO LIFT THE DAMN THING, AND SNEAK IT PAST THE ASSORTED PSYCHOPATHS WHO BROUGHT US HERE...
...OR SAVE THEIR LIVES WITH IT, DEPENDING ON HOW WE DECIDE TO GO.
DON'T BE NEGATIVE, PEP.
WE WERE LITERALLY BORN TO STEAL.
LET'S GO DO WHAT WE DO BEST.
WE ARE READY AT LAST. I HAVE EXTRACTED THE NECESSARY DATA FROM DAKEN'S TISSUE. IT IS TIME TO BEGIN.
IN ALMOST NO TIME AT ALL, WE WILL HAVE RESTORED LOGAN TO LIFE. ASSUMING, OF COURSE, THERE ARE NO FURTHER INTERRUPT--
BAMF!

STEP AWAY, SINISTER. WHATEVER YOU'RE TRYING TO DO WITH LOGAN'S REMAINS...
...IT ENDS NOW!

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